

Pumpouts

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Generally, marina basins are naturally sheltered and semi-enclosed, which usually means they are not flushed as well as more open waters. Bacteria, chemicals, and nutrients contained in untreated and minimally treated human waste from boats can overload small, poorly flushed waterways and may cause local water quality problems. Disease carrying bacteria, viruses and protozoa can enter waterways through the discharge of untreated or poorly treated boat waste. The nutrients in boat sewage can stimulate algae to grow in such large numbers that their decomposition uses up oxygen necessary for fish to live. Direct threats to human health can arise through consumption of contaminated water, fish or shellfish. Scientists have shown there is more bacteria in the untreated waste discharged by one boat than in the treated wastewater discharged by a small city.

Legal Requirements:

- There is no legal requirement for marinas in Connecticut to provide a pumpout facility. However, it may be a condition of a CT-DEP permit for a new or expanded marina to provide a pumpout facility for customers and the boating public. Regardless of possible permit conditions, more and more boaters are starting to demand pumpout facilities, so it makes sense to provide customers with convenient and affordable service.

Best Management Practices:

- ★ If your marina services boats with holding tanks, install a pumpout. Select the type of pumpout system that meets the needs of your marina, your customers and transients:
 - Permanently fixed to the dock, or
 - Mobile, hand truck, trailer mounted units, or pumpout boat
- ★ If the pumpout is permanently fixed, choose an appropriate location which is convenient and accessible to the most number of boats throughout the tidal cycle:
 - Gas dock
 - T-head
 - Separate bulkhead
- ★ If your marina services mostly smaller boats without holding tanks, install a portable toilet holding tank waste receptacle (dump station) in a convenient location near small slips and launch ramps.
- ★ Signs identifying pumpout stations are available free of charge from CT-DEP's OLISP at (860) 424-3034.
- ★ Train staff to operate the pumpout. Boaters rely on functional pumpout facilities.



Act (CVA) funds to defray costs of installing and operating a coastal pumpout. Coastal marinas are eligible for reimbursement for up to 75% of the costs of installation and operation and maintenance of pumpouts through the CVA program. CVA funds may be available for inland pumpouts by the 2004 boating season. For more information, contact CT-DEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs (OLISP) at (860) 424-3034.

- ★ Upland waste holding tanks, if above ground, should be secured and have a secondary containment area, including a concrete pad. Inspect area regularly.
- ★ Provide clean and attractive bathrooms for marina customers. Encourage customers to use them rather than the toilets on their boats.
- ★ Prohibit discharge of treated or untreated human waste within the marina basin. Incorporate the prohibition into customers’ slip contract. This would prohibit boaters from discharging any sewage into the marina basin. For this to work, there must be adequate pumpout services, customers must be educated about how to manage their boat waste, and there must be strict enforcement.
- ★ Educate marina customers about the impacts of boat sewage and the proper way to manage it. Post signs in the marina outlining the rules for proper sewage handling.
- ★ Provide and promote biodegradable and non-toxic holding tank deodorant. Sell it in the ships store.
- ★ Encourage the boaters at your facility with marine heads to install holding tanks.
- ★ Allow pumpout boats to service customers in your facility.
- ★ Support adoption of a federally-designated No Discharge Area in your region.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

✓ Do you offer affordable, convenient pumpout facilities to customers and/or the general public?	YES	NO	N/A
✓ Do you provide clean bathrooms for customers?	YES	NO	N/A